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(*b*) whether it is a fact that appeals are pending in the High Court of Madras between the Parlakimedi estate and certain ryots regarding the right of the estate to levy water-cess and to enhance the rent ; and

(*c*) what action the Government propose to take on the above petitions?

A.—(*a*) The Government have received seven petitions. They understand that the Board of Revenue has received a number also.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No decision has as yet been arrived at.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" In view of the answer given to clause (*b*) of this question, viz., 'that appeals are pending in the High Court of Madras between the Parlakimedi estate and certain ryots regarding the right of the estate to levy water-cess and to enhance the rent', will the Government be pleased to put off the settlement operations and the preparation of a record of rights till those suits are decided."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given in clause (*c*). The matter is under consideration."

Introduction of the Malabar Tenancy Bill.

* 210 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to introduce a Malabar Tenancy Bill ;

(*b*) if so, on what lines ; and

(*c*) when ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The matter is under the consideration of Government with reference to the recent report and draft Bill prepared by the Malabar Tenancy Committee.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I have, Sir, a little more definite information as to the exact stage at which the matter stands at present ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The exact stage is that the report and the draft Bill and a summary of the recommendation of the Committee were translated in Malayalam and published in the papers. The Government have not come to any conclusions on the report."

Minor Irrigation

Supply of water to the Kaveripauk tank.

* 211 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what were the original depth and the dimensions of the Kaveripauk tank and what are its present depth and dimensions ;

(*b*) when the tank was full for the last time and how many villages are being irrigated by the tank ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Kaveripauk tank gets its water from the Palar river and that the Palar river has become dry for the last 23 years, and if so, what the reasons are for the same ;

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(*d*) whether it is a fact that the scarcity of water in the river is due to the water being diverted to Bethamangalam tank, Mysore Government, and if so, whether the Government when permitting the same took into account the consequent loss to the ryots, whose lands were irrigated by the Palar river;

(*e*) whether the Government have since then considered the desirability of connecting the lands under Palar irrigation with Cauvery-Mettur project, and if so, what conclusions they have arrived at on the subject, and if not, whether they have any other scheme under their consideration;

(*f*) what the total amount of remission is that has been granted to the districts of North Arcot and Chingleput, because of the scarcity of water in the Palar river and the Kaveripauk tank, during the last ten years; and

(*g*) whether the Government propose to treat the matter as very important and to investigate schemes for providing irrigation facilities for the Palar river and especially the Kaveripauk tank at an early date?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*d*) The Government have called for a report.

(*c*) The tank gets its supply from the Palar river, but the statement that the river has become dry for the last 23 years is not quite correct. The river has surplussed over the Palar anicut sixty-four times during the twenty years ending with 1925.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

(*f*) North Arcot district—

	RS.
Palar river	4,80,392
Kaveripauk tank	1,06,902
Chingleput district—	
Palar river	12,840

(*g*) The Government recognize the importance of the matter and it has been receiving their attention for some time past.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"If it is a fact that the Kaveripakkam tank which gets its supply of water from the river Palar surplussed so many times within the last 20 years, how is it that more than 4 lakhs of rupees land revenue have been remitted in the North Arcot district during the last ten years?"

Investigation into derelict tanks in Kurnool district.

* 212 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O. Mis. No. 2463, Revenue, dated 30th November 1927, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the investigation in regard to the list of derelict tanks in the Kurnool district submitted by the Collector of Kurnool has been undertaken; and

(*b*) if so what recommendations have been so far made by the investigating authorities?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have sanctioned the formation of two new Tank Restoration Scheme divisions, one of which will work in the Ceded districts and attend to the derelict tanks in Kurnool district referred to in the question.